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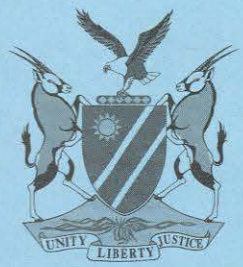

REPUBLIC OF NAMABIA

LC/NAIROBI

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT

1999

No. 6

Office of the President
National Planning Commission
CENTRAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS
WINDHOEK

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REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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No. 6

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Preface

This is the sixth issue of the *Statistical Abstract* to be published by the National Planning Commission. The last issue was *Statistical Abstract* No. 5, which was published in 1996. This issue therefore contains the latest statistics available up to 1998. It must, however, be pointed out that this product is a result of significant collaborative efforts of various government ministries, departments and other organisations.

As stated in previous issues, the objective of this *Abstract* is to be a single source of statistical information on various aspects of economic and social conditions in the country. In keeping with this objective, the quest for increase in the coverage continues. However, the realisation and achievement of this goal depends, to a greater extent, on the full and continued co-operation of all producers and suppliers of data.

Brief explanatory notes preceding some of the chapters are intended to provide background information in respect of data source, coverage and in some cases, apparent inconsistencies of the same information appearing in other chapters, rather than analysis of the data. Also, where appropriate, a brief outline of either current or future development work has been included in the chapter notes.

The appendix at the end shows a list of publications produced by the National Planning Commission to-date.

As stated above, this product has been a collaborative exercise and I am grateful for the co-operation we have received from officials of various central and local government ministries, departments and other organisations. At the same time, the National Planning Commission would welcome receiving views and comments of users on possible future improvements of the annual *Statistical Abstract*.

Sarah Kuugongelwa
Director-General
NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

October 1999

Symbols and Conventions used

Unit of Measurement: The metric system is used throughout

Rounding the Figures: Where numbers have been rounded, there may be a discrepancy between the total and the sum of the components

Symbols

..	Data not available
0.0	Value less than half a unit
- or 0	Nil or amount Zero
...	Included in another column

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Chapter 1

Land and Climate

This chapter contains introduction on Namibia's Geo-physical Setting. Namibia covers an areas of 824 269 Km² and is the 12th largest country in Sub-Sahara Africa, lying on the Southwest coast of Africa between latitude 17.5° and 28.5° South and between longitude12 and 20. It shares boundaries with Angola, Zambia, Botswana and South Africa.

Two major deserts bound the country, the Namib along the West Coast, and the Kalahari on the east stretching into southern and central Botswana. Namibia is one of the most arid country in the world and the most arid country south of the Sahara. Annual average rainfall ranges from less than 50mm along the coast to 700 mm in the far northeast, with evaporation levels in excess of 83%. The rainfall pattern is characterized by high variability in amount and location, and droughts are frequent and extensive. The only perennial rivers are found on the country s borders: the Orange river on the southern border with South Africa and Kunene, Kavango, Kwando Zambezi rivers on the northern borders with Angola, Zambia, and Botswana. Water is therefore a major constraint.

Namibia's landscape is highly varied with expanses of desert, sand dunes and the rock formation of the south contrasting starkly with the Savannah's and woodlands of the central regions and the forested landscape of the Northeast.

Maximum temperature reaches 35°C in months of December but with cooler evening when temperature usually fall below 20°C. In winter –from May to August –temperature goes down even below zero sometimes during nights but the days are warm with temperature averaging 20-30°C.